Rail-Wheel optimisation

726. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have taken up a project called "Rail-wheel optimisation";

(b) if so, the details of the project like the cost of the project, the time of the project by which it is going to be completed and the commencement date of the project; and

(c) the details of the organisation which has undertaken this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Railways are participating in a Joint Research Project of the UIC (International Union of Railways) on Rail Wheel Optimisation. The project commenced in the year 2000, is expected to cost approximately US $ 5-6 million and is likely to be completed in 4-5 years time. Indian Railways has agreed to pay USS 1 million for the project. Other participants include SPOORNET (South African Railways). RTRI (Railway Track Research Institute, Japan), EJR (East Japan Railways), QR (Queensland Railways, Australia), ERRI (European Railway Research Institute), AAR (Association of American Railroads), Russian Railway Research Institute and Latin American Railway UIC is coordinating the project.

Safety Check of railway bridges

727. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had done safety checks of the existing railway bridges between Shornur and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the repair works done in the existing bridges recently; and

(d) the reasons for collapse of bridge at Kadalundi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Inspections of all railways bridges are conducted periodically by officials at different levels such as Senior Section